



Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

REQUEST/RECEIPT FOR TRANSMISSION

DATE/TIME TRANSMITTED	 SITE GOLF 583 SSN NBR	 DATE/TIME RECEIVED
TO BE COMPLETED BY REQUESTER		
FROM <u>DIA/VO-PW</u> OFFICE/DESK <u>Mr. Trowbridge</u> PHONE NBR <u>697-2418</u>		
SUBJECT <u>Chronology - Mark Smith (4)</u>		
CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET NOFORN</u> PAGES <u>5</u>		
DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS		
<input type="checkbox"/> HOLD FOR NORMAL DUTY HOURS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DELIVER IMMEDIATELY		
NOTE FURNISH AFTER DUTY HOUR CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR EACH ADDRESSEE REQUIRING AFTER HOUR DELIVERY		
TRANSMIT TO		
AGENCY	INDIVIDUALS NAME	OFFICE ROOM NBR PHONE NBR
<u>CIA</u>		
REMARKS:		

Classification/Handling Controls

DIA Form 701

SECRET**NOFORN****ORCON**

23 April 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:**SUBJECT: Chronology Mark Smith - Robin Gregson Association**

1. 4 September 1985: Major (Retired) Mark Smith and Sergeant First Class (Retired) Melvin C. McIntire filed suit in U.S. District Court, North Carolina, against the U.S. Government, alleging lack of Government action to free U.S. POWs in Indochina.
2. 26 December 1985: Supplemental affidavits were filed in court, to include an affidavit from a John Obassy (an admitted fictitious name). Obassy claimed to have personally seen 39 Caucasian prisoners in Laos, whom he strongly believed to be Americans. The sighting occurred in October 1985. Obassy claimed that he and Mark Smith had been friends since 1980.
3. 27 January 1986: Congressman Bill Hendon (R-NC) hand-carried a letter addressed to the President from Smith and McIntire's attorney, Mark Waple. Enclosed with the Waple letter was a Memorandum from Mark Smith. Waple and Smith revealed the existence of a video tape, made by John Obassy, which showed 39 American prisoners in captivity in Laos, as recent as October 1985. Smith claims that he had visited the Mid-East recently and viewed the tape in the presence of Mid-East intelligence personnel. Waple recommended that the lawsuit be set aside until after the video tape had been reviewed by Government representatives.
4. 30 January 1986: During testimony before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mark Smith disclosed that a letter had been carried to the White House which disclosed the existence of a 248-minute video tape made by John Obassy and which showed 39 Caucasian or American prisoners in Laos. Smith promised to gain access to the video tape for the Congressional Committee members within one week. Committee member Mr. Bilirakis asked Mark Smith if he knew that the Caucasian prisoners were American, and Smith replied that he did not know.
5. 19 February 1986: The deputy director of the Mid-East intelligence service which Smith claimed on 27 January had given him access to a copy of the video tape was contacted by U.S. personnel. The deputy director emphasized that his

SECRET NOFORN ORCON

intelligence service knew of no video tape showing American PWs, and stated that the meeting described by Smith did not and could not have taken place.

6. 20 February 1986: Congressman Hendon telephoned the Director, DIA, in quarters at 2300 hours and reported that Mark Smith was in Cyprus trying to obtain the video tape, but that Smith needed transportation and funds to continue. Hendon also stated that Smith was being impeded in his efforts by [redacted] who was also impugning Smith's source. The Director, DIA stated that he supported efforts to obtain the tape, as well as the transportation requirements, however, would not support providing funds to Smith.

STAT

7. 21-25 February 1986: [redacted] revealed that no one was interfering with Smith, that there was [redacted] and that Smith had been on Cyprus earlier in February. The American Embassy, Cyprus recommended that DIA get a briefing from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

STAT

STAT

8. 25 February 1986: According to DEA, Smith was accompanied on Cyprus by Robin Gregson, a suspected drug dealer; Smith and Gregson were believed to be involved in drug activity on Cyprus. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] After the introduction, the police official departed with Smith and Gregson.

9. 6 March 1986: Based upon the DEA report of February 1986 that Major (Retired) Mark Smith had been observed on Cyprus accompanied by a Robin Gregson, DIA undertook a number of agency checks in an attempt to further identify Gregson. Results of those agency checks with regard to Robin Gordon Gregson were as follows:

A. DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY:

- Gregson is suspected of being involved in drug trafficking.
- Gregson was under surveillance by Cyprus and several other countries relative possible drug activity.

B. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY:

- Gregson was born 28 March 1945, Isleworth, UK.

-Individual is a resident of Bangkok, Thailand, and a known associate of persons involved in narcotics, fraud, forgery, and burglary.

-Is married to Thai woman involved in arms dealing.

-During the period 1972-1975, reported to have worked with Getz Brothers Company, Vientiane, from which he was fired.

-1976, reportedly associated with sale of military equipment to South Africa.

-Involved in foreign trade and markets; in April 1976 formed Robin Industries in Bangkok.

-In October 1979, alleged to have threatened UN officials working in refugee camps in Thailand with violence.

-As of 1982, parents resided in Harare, Zimbabwe.

-Acknowledged to "Soldier of Fortune" magazine in early 1983 that he was working with the Soviet KGB in Bangkok.

✓ -Believed to be associated with Philip Agee, former CIA officer and dissident.

-Had previous difficulties with Thai authorities with regard to bribery and possible drug activities.

-Claims to be a former mercenary.

C. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION REPORTING:

-Learned from "Soldier of Fortune" (SOF) that in March 1983 Gregson had threatened the life of the U.S. Assistant Army Attache in Bangkok.

-In March 1983, SOF contacted the British Embassy, Bangkok, about Gregson. According to British Embassy, Gregson was one of the "worst criminals and most dangerous persons in Thailand".

-According to SOF, Gregson claims to have unlimited access to Vietnam, Burma, India, and the PRC, based upon his association with the Soviet KGB.

D. INTEL DIV, IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE:

-Robin Gregson entered the United States 21 December 1985 at New York; permitted to remain until 20 June 1986. Carrier was British Air Ferries, Ltd.

-Gregson's point of contact in the U.S., as shown on his entry forms, was Congressman Hendon, North Carolina.

-INS files indicate that a John Gregson, born 28 March 1945, UK, (same as that for Robin Gregson) has been a frequent visitor to the U.S.; all trips were made to Florida. John Gregson claims to be a resident of Jamaica.

-INS files also show that a John Obasi, a native of Lagos, Nigeria, entered the U.S. 7 Aug 1985, at Houston, TX.

E. UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE:

-Gregson was in Thailand in 1978; reported to be an arms dealer.

-Unconfirmed charges that Gregson was involved in attempts to purchase eight C-130 aircraft for Libya. The aircraft were stored in Marietta, Georgia.

F. JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER, BANGKOK:

-Gregson generally regarded as "shady"; is a suspected arms dealer and drug trafficker.

-On 13 February 1986, according to Cyprus Police, Gregson was in Cyprus under "suspicious circumstances", accompanied by two Lebanese, one Irani, and Mark Smith.

-British Embassy, Bangkok, reports that as of September 1985, Gregson was on bail pending final appeal on a bribery conviction in a drug case.

-In November 1981, Gregson was connected with a bizarre PW/MIA story as reported by a Mr. O'Toole. Mr. O'Toole identified Gregson as the "broker" who had arranged Mr. O'Toole's trip to Laos to visit PWs.

10. 28 February 1986 A letter addressed to the President from Smith and McIntire's attorney, Mark Waple, was delivered to the White House. Waple reported that Mark Smith had recently returned from a trip overseas with an offer/proposal about the video tape which showed Americans in captivity. Essentially, the offer was for Congressmen Hendon and Bob Smith, Mark Smith, and Senator DeConcini, to travel overseas to view the video tape, after which they would be required to pay \$4.2 million in cash to take the original of the tape and other unidentified evidence about PWs. The other conditions of the proposal were: (1) That the U.S. Government announce its acceptance/rejection of the offer/proposal by 3 March 1986; (2) that a U.S. commercial airliner be made available to fly the party from Los Angeles to Southeast Asia; (3) that Mark Smith be allowed to select one of the pilots; and, (4) that the Congressional representatives carry the \$4.2 million.

11. 3 March 1986: Congressmen Hendon and Smith, Mark Smith, and attorney Mark Waple, met with representatives of

DIA. The proposal, as outlined in the letter to the President, was presented to DIA by Hendon and Mark Smith. Hendon and Smith were asked by DIA if they had further information about the tape and both replied that they had names associated with the PWs shown in the tape, however, when asked, both Hendon and Smith refused to provide any of the names. Hendon stated to DIA that if the U.S. Government response to the offer/proposal was negative, then he wanted the response in writing.

12. 6 March 1986: The Vice President telephoned Mr. Hendon to inform him that Ross Perot had been asked to look into the latest reports of PWs in Southeast Asia, and asked Mr. Hendon to cooperate with Mr. Perot to determine whether or not recent reporting was valid. The Vice President stated that he had informed President Reagan about the role that Mr. Perot had been asked to play.

25X1

✓ 14. 22 April 1986: DIA learned that Robin Gregson was being detained in jail in Singapore, charged with fraud and cheating, with a trial date set for June 1986. When the British Consul in Singapore recently met with Gregson, he (Gregson) claimed that he [redacted] had very important PW information for the Congressman that recently visited him in Singapore. Congressman Hendon has revealed that he visited Obassy (Gregson) in Singapore.

25X1
25X1